Statement-II

Details of the roads forwarded by the Gujarat Government for being classified as National Highways.

S.No.	Particulars of roads	Length (Kms.)
1	Surat-Dhulia-Calcutta via-Kadodara Jn. Bardoli-Vyara-Songadh-Mahuva-Shira border.	115.00
2	Ahmedabad-Indore-Bhopal via Kuha-Kathlal-Dahod.	137.40
3	Lakhpat-Kandla-Okha-Porbandar-Cambay-Dahej-Bombay-Coastal Highway.	1776.00
4	Bewas-Sirohi-Radhanpur-Kandla	168.60
5	Vadodara-Dhulia-Solapur via-Dabhoi-Newang-Sybona	178.00
6	Valsad-Nasik-Poone-Hyderabad via Chikhi-Vansda	103.80
7	Bhavanagar-Rajkot-Veraval	163.00
8	Ahmedabad-Viramugam-Dhrangadhara-Halvad-Malia-Kandla	182.50
9	Kandla-Lakhpat via Bhuj	167.00
10	Ahmedabad-Kalol-Mehsana-Palanpur	194.80
11	Bagodara-Wataman	30.50
	TOTAL	3216.60

Import of Locomotives and Bogies by Railways

272. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite indigenous technology available in the country, Government are importing locomotives and bogies from abroad;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the details of locomotives and bogies likely to be imported during the next two years, and the names of the countries from which these are to be imported; and

(d) by when the Railways would be self-sufficient in the manufacture of the locomotives and bogies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. The locomotives and freight bogies being imported represent state of the art technology, which is not available indigenously. These are being imported with a view to selection of the most suitable type for indigenous manufacture with technical collaboration with the foreign manufacture.

(b) The reasons are energy conservation, higher operational efficiency and service reliability, easier and reduced maintenance, reduced ineffective and higher availability for traffic use.

(c) (i) 18 Prototype electric locomotives of 6000 Horse Power are being

imported-12 from M|s. Hitachi, Japan and 6 from M|s. ASEA, Sweden.

(ii) The eight offers received against a global tender for the diesel-electric locomotives proposed to be imported are currently under evaluation.

(iii) As regards freight bogies, orders are being placed for bogies to be imported from USA, Australia, Federal Republic of Germany and France.

(d) India is already, by and large, self-sufficient in the manufacture of locomotives and freight bogies. The imports referred to are for the limited purpose of acquisition of 'state of the art' technology.

Educational Programme

273. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether educational programmes in the country are falling short of their targets due to lack of sufficient resources; and

(b) whether massive TV programmes are proposed to be launched through a new channel for use in every linguistic area in the country in order to wipe out illiteracy in the country by 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Education being a crucial area of investment for national development and national survival, the National Policy on Education envisages that outlay on Education will be stepped up to the extent essential for policy implementation in the Seventh Plan. It further states that from the Eighth Five Year Plan onwards it will uniformly exceed 6 per cent of the national income. This underlines the need for adequate investment in education specially to implement the new initiatives included in the NPE like the National System of Education, Universalisation of Elementary Education, vocationalisation of education and improvement in quality and modernisation at all levels.

Programme of Action to operationalise policy parameters of National Policy on Education—1986 envisages that NPE would be supported effectively through mass media including TV. This media is being utilised for promotional, motivational and informational purposes on a limited scale. The use of TV will be expanded in the context of NPE and Technology Mission of Eradication of Illiteracy in future.

Speed of Railway Trains

274. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is contemplated to increase the speed of railway trains covering short distance travel and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether tourist centres such as Khajuraho and Sanchi are proopsed to be included under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Besides inter-city trains, most of the short distance trains are stopping trains catering to the requirement of commuter traffic. However, wherever possible these are being speeded up.

(b) Jhansi, which serves Khajuraho and Sanchi is already linked with Delhi and Bombay with fast trains.

Rise in Telephones Tariff by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

275. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has recently raised the Telephone tariff;